

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4, 5, 14 and 20 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1-3, 6, 8-13, 15-17, 19 and 21-22 by rewriting the same as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A jewelry clasp comprising,
a first body having a first magnetic means forming a flat, planar magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole,
a second body having a second magnetic means forming a magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole, said magnetic means of said first and second bodies being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the clasp,
said magnetically attractive surfaces adapted to be positioned in an abutting relationship with the poles of one of the bodies being aligned with the opposite poles of the other body,
a safety catch, said safety catch having one end pivotally mounted to ~~one of said bodies~~ said first body and having a protrusion extending outwardly from the other end, said safety catch being rotatable about the pivotal mounting to a latched position, and
an interconnecting element located on the second body, said interconnecting element being a certain distance from an edge of the second body,
wherein the protrusion engages the ~~other body~~ interconnecting element to latch the first and second bodies together.
2. (Once Amended) The jewelry clasp as defined in claim 1 wherein said first magnetic means comprises separate magnets, with one of said separate magnets having a south pole at said surface and the other of said separate magnets having a north pole at said surface and said second magnetic means comprises separate magnets, with one of said separate magnets having a south pole at said surface and the other of said separate magnets having a north pole at said surface.
3. (Once Amended) The jewelry clasp as defined in claim 1 wherein said first and second magnetic magnet means comprises a bipolar bar magnet having a north and a south pole.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Once Amended) A jewelry clasp, comprising:

a first body having a first magnetic means forming a flat, planar magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole,

a second body having a second magnetic means forming a magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole, said magnetic means of said first and second bodies being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the clasp,

said magnetically attractive surfaces adapted to be positioned in an abutting relationship with the poles of one of the bodies being aligned with the opposite poles of the other body,

a safety catch, said safety catch having one end pivotally mounted to one of said bodies and having a protrusion extending outwardly from the other end, said safety catch being rotatable about the pivotal mounting to a latched position wherein the protrusion engages the other body to latch the first and second bodies together,

wherein said safety catch has a protrusion having an inward lip that overlaps the other body, and

~~as defined in claim 5~~ wherein said inward lip is located so as to move the other body along a line ~~extending between~~ on which the north and south poles of said first and second magnetic means are located as said safety catch moves to said latched position to misalign said respective north and south poles of said first and second bodies, and said first and second magnetic means causes said first and second bodies to move ~~rapidly~~ back to an aligned position when said safety catch reaches said latched position to realign said poles of one of the bodies with the opposites poles of the other body.

7. (Original) The jewelry clasp as defined in claim 6 wherein said rapid movement of said first and second bodies produces a click that can be heard and/or felt by a wearer.

8. (Once Amended) ~~The~~ A jewelry clasp, comprising:

a first body having a first magnetic means forming a flat, planar magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole,

a second body having a second magnetic means forming a magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole, said magnetic means of said first and second bodies being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the clasp,

said magnetically attractive surfaces adapted to be positioned in an abutting relationship with the poles of one of the bodies being aligned with the opposite poles of the other body,

a safety catch, said safety catch having one end pivotally mounted to one of said bodies and having a protrusion extending outwardly from the other end, said safety catch being rotatable about the pivotal mounting to a latched position wherein the protrusion engages the other body to latch the first and second bodies together,

~~as defined in claim 1~~ wherein said safety catch includes a magnetically attractive material and wherein said safety catch is held in its latched position by a magnetic attraction between said magnetically attractive material and said magnetic means of said first and second bodies.

9. (Once Amended) A jewelry clasp comprising,

a first body having at least one recess and a first magnetic means with a magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole located within said at least one recess, said north and south pole being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the first body,

a second body having at least one recess and a second magnetic means with a magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole located within said at least one recess, said north and south pole being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the second body,

said magnetically attractive surfaces adapted to be positioned in an abutting relationship with the poles of one of the bodies being aligned with the opposite poles of the other body,

a safety catch, said safety catch having one end pivotally mounted to ~~one of said bodies~~ said first body and having a protrusion extending outwardly from the other end, said safety catch being rotatable about the pivotal mounting to a latched position, and

an interconnecting element located on the second body, said interconnecting element being a certain distance from the edge of the second body,

wherein the protrusion engages the ~~other body~~ interconnecting element to latch the

first and second bodies together.

10. (Once Amended) The A jewelry clasp comprising,

a first body having at least one recess and a first magnetic means with a magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole located within said at least one recess, said north and south pole being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the first body,

a second body having at least one recess and a second magnetic means with a magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole located within said at least one recess, said north and south pole being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the second body,

said magnetically attractive surfaces adapted to be positioned in an abutting relationship with the poles of one of the bodies being aligned with the opposite poles of the other body,

a safety catch, said safety catch having one end pivotally mounted to one of said bodies and having a protrusion extending outwardly from the other end, said safety catch being rotatable about the pivotal mounting to a latched position wherein the protrusion engages the other body to latch the first and second bodies together,

~~as defined in claim 9~~ wherein said first body and said second body each have two recesses formed therein and said first and second magnetic means comprises a magnet located in each of said recesses of said first and second bodies, said magnets of said first and second bodies each having a north pole and a south pole at said surface of said first and second bodies.

11. (Once Amended) The jewelry clasp as defined in claim 9 wherein said first and said second body each have one recess formed therein and said first and second magnetic means comprises a bipolar bar magnet located in each of said one recess of said first and second bodies, each of said bar magnets having a north pole and a south pole.

12. (Once Amended) The A jewelry clasp comprising,

a first body having at least one recess and a first magnetic means with a magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole located within said at least one recess, said north and south pole being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of

the first body,

a second body having at least one recess and a second magnetic means with a magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole located within said at least one recess, said north and south pole being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the second body,

said magnetically attractive surfaces adapted to be positioned in an abutting relationship with the poles of one of the bodies being aligned with the opposite poles of the other body,

a safety catch, said safety catch having one end pivotally mounted to one of said bodies and having a protrusion extending outwardly from the other end, said safety catch being rotatable about the pivotal mounting to a latched position wherein the protrusion engages the other body to latch the first and second bodies together,

wherein said first and said second body each have one recess formed therein and said first and second magnetic means comprises a bipolar bar magnet located in each of said one recess of said first and second bodies, each of said bar magnets having a north pole and a south pole, and

~~as defined in claim 11~~ wherein the at least one recess has an upstanding peg located therein and said bar magnet has a bore with a countersink formed therein and said magnet is affixed within said at least one recess by said post passing through said bore and pressed into said countersink.

13. (Once Amended) The A jewelry clasp comprising,

a first body having at least one recess and a first magnetic means with a magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole located within said at least one recess, said north and south pole being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the first body,

a second body having at least one recess and a second magnetic means with a magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole located within said at least one recess, said north and south pole being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the second body,

said magnetically attractive surfaces adapted to be positioned in an abutting relationship with the poles of one of the bodies being aligned with the opposite poles of the other body,

a safety catch, said safety catch having one end pivotally mounted to one of said bodies and having a protrusion extending outwardly from the other end, said safety catch being rotatable about the pivotal mounting to a latched position wherein the protrusion engages the other body to latch the first and second bodies together,

~~as defined in claim 9~~ wherein said at least one recess in said first and second bodies has a post extending upwardly within said at least one recess, and each magnetic means has a countersunk bore formed therein, said magnetic being affixed within said at least one recess by means of said post entering into said countersunk bore wherein said post flattens out within said countersunk bore to affix the first and second magnetic means within said at least one recess.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Once Amended) The A jewelry clasp comprising,

a first body having at least one recess and a first magnetic means with a magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole located within said at least one recess, said north and south pole being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the first body,

a second body having at least one recess and a second magnetic means with a magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole located within said at least one recess, said north and south pole being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the second body,

said magnetically attractive surfaces adapted to be positioned in an abutting relationship with the poles of one of the bodies being aligned with the opposite poles of the other body,

a safety catch, said safety catch having one end pivotally mounted to one of said bodies and having a protrusion extending outwardly from the other end, said safety catch being rotatable about the pivotal mounting to a latched position wherein the protrusion engages the other body to latch the first and second bodies together,

wherein said safety catch has a protrusion having an inward lip that overlaps the other body, and

~~as defined in claim 14~~ wherein said inward lip is located so as to move the other body along a line extending between the north and south poles of said magnetic means as said

safety catch moves to said latched position to misalign said respective north and south poles of said first and second bodies, and said magnetic means causes said first and second bodies to move rapidly back to an aligned position when said safety catch reaches said latched position to realign said poles of one of the bodies with the opposites poles of the other body.

16. (Once Amended) ~~The~~ A jewelry clasp comprising,

a first body having at least one recess and a first magnetic means with a magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole located within said at least one recess, said north and south pole being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the first body,

a second body having at least one recess and a second magnetic means with a magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole located within said at least one recess, said north and south pole being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the second body,

said magnetically attractive surfaces adapted to be positioned in an abutting relationship with the poles of one of the bodies being aligned with the opposite poles of the other body,

a safety catch, said safety catch having one end pivotally mounted to one of said bodies and having a protrusion extending outwardly from the other end, said safety catch being rotatable about the pivotal mounting to a latched position wherein the protrusion engages the other body to latch the first and second bodies together,

~~as defined in claim 9~~ wherein said safety catch includes a magnetically attractive material and wherein said safety catch is held in its latched position by a magnetic attraction between said magnetically attractive material and said magnetic means of said first and second bodies.

17. (Once Amended) A method of completing the connection of a jewelry clasp, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first body having a jewelry chain affixed thereto and having a surface with a magnetic means having a south pole and a north pole aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the jewelry clasp,

providing a second body having a jewelry chain affixed thereto and having a surface with a magnetic means having a south pole and a north pole aligned along a

longitudinal centerline of the jewelry clasp,

joining the first and second bodies together by aligning and facing the north and south poles of one of said bodies with, respectively, the south and north poles of the other of said bodies,

providing a safety catch affixed to one of the bodies and adapted to be movable to a latched position, and to engage the other of said bodies

providing an interconnecting element on the other body, said interconnecting element being a certain distance from the edge of the other body,

whereby the protrusion engages the other body interconnecting element to latch the first and second bodies together when said bodies are joined together to complete the connection of said first and second bodies together.

18. (Original) The method as defined in claim 17 wherein the step of providing a first body and a second with a magnetic means having a north pole and a south pole comprises providing a first body with a bi-polar bar magnet and a second body with a bi-polar bar magnet.

19. (Once Amended) The method as defined in claim 18 wherein the step of providing a safety catch comprises providing a safety catch having a protrusion that extends outwardly and engages the other of said bodies.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Once Amended) The A method of completing the connection of a jewelry clasp, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first body having a jewelry chain affixed thereto and having a surface with a magnetic means having a south pole and a north pole aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the jewelry clasp,

providing a second body having a jewelry chain affixed thereto and having a surface with a magnetic means having a south pole and a north pole aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the jewelry clasp,

joining the first and second bodies together by aligning and facing the north and south poles of one of said bodies with, respectively, the south and north poles of the

other of said bodies,

providing a safety catch affixed to one of the bodies and adapted to be movable to a latched position to engage the other of said bodies when- said bodies are joined together to complete the connection of said first and second bodies together,

wherein the step of providing a first body and a second with a magnetic means having a north pole and a south pole comprises providing a first body with a bi-polar bar magnet and a second body with a bi-polar bar magnet,

wherein the step of providing a safety catch comprises providing a safety catch having a protrusion that extends outwardly and engages the other of said bodies, and

~~as defined in claim 19~~ wherein the step of providing a safety catch comprises providing a safety catch having a lip that displaces the other body along a longitudinal axis extending between the north and south poles to misalign the magnetic means of the first body and the magnetic means of the second body, and allowing the first and second bodies to rapidly move back to the aligned position wherein the opposite poles are aligned when the inwardly directed lip has overlapped the other body in the latched position.

22. (Once Amended) The A method of completing the connection of a jewelry clasp, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first body having a jewelry chain affixed thereto and having a surface with a magnetic means having a south pole and a north pole aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the jewelry clasp,

providing a second body having a jewelry chain affixed thereto and having a surface with a magnetic means having a south pole and a north pole aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the jewelry clasp,

joining the first and second bodies together by aligning and facing the north and south poles of one of said bodies with, respectively, the south and north poles of the other of said bodies,

providing a safety catch affixed to one of the bodies and adapted to be movable to a latched position to engage the other of said bodies when- said bodies are joined together to complete the connection of said first and second bodies together,

~~as defined in claim 17~~ wherein the step of providing a safety catch comprises providing a safety catch having a magnetically attractive material and said safety catch is moved to its latched position wherein the magnetically attractive material of the safety catch

is magnetically attracted to the magnetic means of the first and second bodies to retain the safety catch in its latched position.

23. (Original) The method of affixing a thin metal magnet to a body having a recess, said method comprising the steps of:

- providing a thin metal magnet,
- forming a bore having a countersunk area in the thin metal magnet;
- providing a post comprised of a relatively soft material extending upwardly from the recess to a distal end;
- inserting the thin metal magnet into the recess in the body while aligning the post to enter and pass through the bore wherein the distal end of the post is positioned within the countersunk area, and
- pressing the distal end of the post into the countersunk area to securely affix the thin metal magnet to the body.

Please add new claims 24-27 as follows:

24. (New Claim) A jewelry clasp comprising,

- a first body having a first magnetic means forming a flat, planar, bipolar magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole on a same side of said surface,

- a second body having a second magnetic means forming a bipolar magnetically attractive surface having a north pole and a south pole on a same side of said surface, said magnetic means of said first and second bodies being aligned along a longitudinal centerline of the clasp,

- said magnetically attractive surfaces adapted to be positioned in an abutting relationship with the poles of one of the bodies being aligned with the opposite poles of the other body,

- a safety catch, said safety catch having one end pivotally mounted to said first body and having a protrusion extending outwardly from the other end, said safety catch being rotatable about the pivotal mounting to a latched position,

- wherein the protrusion engages the other body to latch the first and second bodies together.

25. (New Claim) The jewelry clasp of claim 6 whereby the jewelry clasp is unlatched by pushing the first body and the second body toward each other causing the first and second bodies to misalign thereby separating the first and second bodies and unlatching the safety catch.

26. (New Claim) The jewelry clasp of claim 15 whereby the jewelry clasp is unlatched by pushing the first body and the second body toward each other causing the first and second bodies to misalign thereby separating the first and second bodies and unlatching the safety catch.

27. (New Claim) The method of claim 21 whereby the jewelry clasp is unlatched by pushing the first body and the second body toward each other causing the first and second bodies to misalign thereby separating the first and second bodies and unlatching the safety catch.